



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

Mental Health

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November 12, 2008

CALIFORNIA STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION REDUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Committee Member:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the California Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Advisory Committee. Reducing the stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness is a high priority to the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) and to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). In collaboration with the MHSOAC, DMH will convene this committee to develop a ten-year plan to reduce stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness in California.

Stigma and discrimination toward people with mental illness have persisted over many years, and California has an unprecedented opportunity to address these obstacles and improve the lives of people with mental illness, their families, and their communities. Your insight and contributions as a committee member will be valuable in providing advisory recommendations to the DMH as it prepares the California Strategic Plan for Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination.

Thank you for joining us to share your valuable experience, skills, and expertise as a member of the Committee. We hope that you will be able to use this unique opportunity as both a forum for the exchange of innovative ideas and as a resource for the development of stigma and discrimination reduction efforts. We look forward to working together to create a statewide California Strategic Plan for Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.
Director